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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Kevin P. Baker et al.

Serial No.: 10/017610

Filed: 12/13/2001

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Paircia Terrillian

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above captioned patent application, Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered.

In the specification:

Please delete the paragraph at page 1, line 2, that was previously added by preliminary amendment.

Please insert the following new paragraph at page 1, line 2:

-- RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of, and claims priority under 35 USC §120 to, US Application 09/946374 filed 9/4/2001, which is a continuation of, and claims priority under 35 USC §120 to, PCT Application PCT/US00/04342 filed 2/18/2000, which claims priority under 35 USC §119 to US Provisional Application 60/162506 filed 10/29/1999, where PCT/US00/04342 is a continuation-in-part of,